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REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. No new subject matter has been added to the specification or claims.

The specification was objected for informalities which have been corrected in the above replacement paragraphs [72], [82] and [84].

Claims 13 and 15 were objected for informalities. The Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims overcome this objection.

Claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. This rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 12-15 were rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 8-15 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hensen US 6,411,314 in view of Giles US 5,850,339. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hensen US 6,411,314 in view of Giles US 5,850,339 and further in view of Shakespeare US 6,421,575. These rejections are respectfully traversed as follows.

In determining a case for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, it is necessary to show that the combination of prior art teachings is proper, and that those teachings constitute an improvement which results from the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions. Furthermore, obviousness is a question of law based on the underlying factual inquiries of:

(A) Determining the scope and content of the prior art;

(B) Ascertaining the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art; and

(C) Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the art.

The Applicants disagree with some of the substantive factual findings by the Office and traverses those findings based on the following explanations and reasoned statements.

The following table compares features of claim 1 versus the teachings of Hansen.

claim 1	prior art
A job control system for controlling a job in a document processing system	Hansen: "system and method for controlling a production printing workflow", col. 1, lines 1-3
in which processing system a number of tasks is performed in a workflow	Hansen: "the method comprises: displaying a first..., displaying a second..., selectively associating..., linking..., col. 2 lines 53-61
the job control system comprising an input source with a user interface for enabling a user to define and change a set of parameters selected from the group of first parameters for said workflow and second parameters within said workflow,	Hansen: "In the GUI interface documents, tickets and other entities and operations are visually represented... and may be interacted with..." col. 9 lines 3-13
wherein the job control system comprises: an identifier to identify and mark dependencies of results to job parameters wherein said results are selected from the group of intermediate results of said job and final results of said job	Hansen: "the GUI permits creation and manipulation of relationships and associations among various objects and visually displays such relationships", col. 9 lines 13-16
and wherein said parameters are selected from the group of parameters for said workflow, parameters within said workflow and parameters for individual task processors in a production plan defining processing of said job	Hansen: "The workflow component provides tools and functionality fro managing the production printing workflow of particular documents or compound documents... It can be defined to contain the procedural stages that a document must go through to be finally produced" col. 14, lines 21-33
a verifier to verify, during job execution, a change in a particular parameter out of said parameters and to determine if	-
(a) a particular result out of said results and obtained before said change in said particular parameter is independent of said particular parameter or	-

(b) if an effect of said change in said particular parameter on said particular parameter on said particular result is within a given limit	-
so that said particular result is still useable despite said change in said particular parameter	-
a memory for storing the still useable results	-

Hansen does not disclose or suggest "a verifier to verify a change in a particular parameter". However, Hansen does teach the case that a device can not handle a page feature: "For page features which the current device can not handle, the device can signal the operator that manual intervention is required and direct the operator through the appropriate steps to implement the page feature and complete the job" col. 11 lines 66-67 col. 12 lines 1-3. This feature may implicitly teach that a parameter is verified and that the effect on the usability of the results is evaluated.

One of ordinary skill in the art, when faced with the problem of handling a case that an original parameter has changed, may look to the teachings of Hansen and implement a method to "signal the operator by the system to manually intervene and to direct the operator through the appropriate steps to complete the job". This is different from the method in claim 1 which does not require manual intervention and automatically determines which (intermediate) results can be reused.

Giles teaches "a method for evaluating a data set for a repeated process and to determine the ranges of values of a specific number of independent input process variables which are most closely associated with a specific process outcome" (Giles col. 3 lines 14-18). An objective of the Giles method is "to process a data set in a way that permits the discovery of region in

parameter space that are associated with a specific type of outcome" (Giles, col. 4 lines 21-23). Hence, the problem solved by the teachings by Giles can be summarized as: "what is the range of input parameters that generate a specific result". Giles starts from a specific output result and works its way back to which input range can produce the specific output.

The problem that remains to be solved by claim 1 starting from the teachings by Hansen is "if a parameter changes within its range, which ones of the (intermediary) results are reusable".

In view of the above analysis, the problem solved by Giles is clearly distinct from the problem that remains to be solved in claim 1 in view of the teachings by Hansen. Therefore a person of ordinary skill in the art would not consider the teachings by Giles to solve the problem in claim 1 starting from the teachings by Hansen.

Moreover, since Giles solves a problem that is not related to claim 1 when starting from Hansen, the solution offered by Giles in combination with Hansen would not lead to the result as described in claim 1.

The same reasoning as for independent claim 1 is applicable to the other independent claims 10, 12 and 14 and claims dependent thereon. Thus Applicants aver that all claims were not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

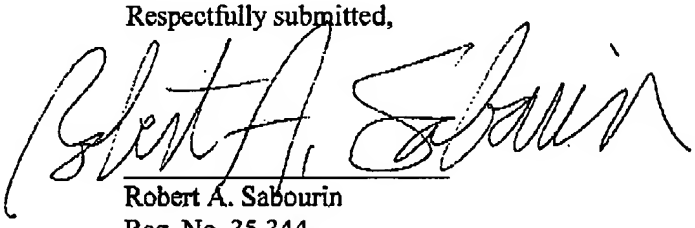
The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions

between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney as listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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